



**Frederick County  
Government  
Frederick, Maryland**

# *News Release*

Winchester Hall / 12 East Church Street  
Frederick, Maryland 21701  
CONTACT: Lori S. Follmer  
Executive Assistant to  
Commissioner Jan H. Gardner  
301-600-3190  
TTY: Use Maryland Relay  
lfollmer@fredco-md.net

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## **COMMISSIONERS GARDNER AND JENKINS ANNOUNCE PLANS TO CONTINUE STUDY OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS**

**FREDERICK, MD** – Commissioners Jan Gardner and Charles Jenkins of the Frederick Board of County Commissioners held a press conference today to discuss ongoing solid waste disposal options for Frederick County.

While the procurement process to consider a waste-to-energy facility continues, the commissioners announced plans to gather information and investigate another solid waste management option using a mechanical biological treatment system that combines a sorting facility with anaerobic digestion. Such plants process mixed household and commercial wastes using a water separation component that resembles a materials recovery facility with its ability to recover specific elements from metals, plastics, glass and other waste.

To find out more about this system, the two commissioners will attend the 24<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Solid Waste Technology and Management ([www.widener.edu/solid.waste](http://www.widener.edu/solid.waste)) in Philadelphia, Pa., on March 16. The conference is primarily educational in nature, with 180 presentations from 40 countries on all topics of solid waste technology and management including: landfill, recycling, energy recovery, policy, economics, waste reduction, research and implementation.

Commissioner Gardner said, "In response to recent public input, as well as our interest in making sure we leave no stone unturned and evaluate all our options, Commissioner Jenkins and I have committed to gathering information about multiple alternatives. We look forward to attending this conference to investigate green and innovative technologies. Afterward, we'll report our findings to the other Commissioners."

(more)

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During the conference, they will meet with representatives of ArrowBio ([www.arrowbio.com](http://www.arrowbio.com)) and review a model of their operations. ArrowBio utilizes a mechanical biological treatment system that uses water as a medium for the gravitational separation of inorganic and organic fractions of municipal solid waste.

Commissioner Jenkins stated, “During the course of the recent public hearings on a waste-to-energy facility, I have kept an open mind, listening for suggestions or alternatives. While a lot of people said that we need to recycle more, that alone will not prevent a need for another waste management solution. While some of our citizens feel that we’ve done enough study and that it’s time to build the facility, others are saying the process has been too rushed and that we need to slow it down and learn more. Attending this conference will accomplish both tasks.”

Earlier this month, Commissioners Gardner and Jenkins participated in a conference call with ArrowBio executives to gather information on their technology. Commissioner Jenkins commented, “Their process seems promising, the price tag is attractive and the environmental impacts look positive at this point. There remain questions about the residual waste, but we’re taking a careful look at the environmental impacts. ArrowBio is not the only company using water to separate solid waste components. While at the conference, we will be looking at other companies as well.”

The press conference may be viewed on the Frederick County Government website at [www.co.frederick.md.us/video](http://www.co.frederick.md.us/video).

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